

## CLEARWATER COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Program Information & Mission

The Clearwater County Economic Development (CCED) is a locally driven, sponsored and self directed team working in partnership with the Idaho Department of Commerce. Economic development is a process that influences growth of the economy to enhance the wellbeing of a community.

*CCED works for the benefit of existing, start-up and new businesses by  
Facilitating proactive partnerships & leveraging available resource*

#### Leveraging Resources:

- TIGER funds \$ 3.24 million matched with Railroad Investment \$ 4.06 million for reconstruction the BG-CM rail line from Lewiston to Orofino and Orofino to Jaype



- ID National Laboratory \$ 6,050 to purchase SolidWorks & 3D printer

- USDA Rural Business Development \$ 15,660 to sponsor workshops on Solid Works and to procure Mac Books to facilitate Inspire ID workshop



Committed to the future of rural communities.

- USDA Rural Business Opportunity \$ 13,200 to redevelop artisan guide & website for regional arts & culture tourism



- ID Workforce Development Council Micro Grant \$ 7,331 for Workplace Readiness workshops

- ID Community Foundation \$ 2,500 for Workplace Readiness workshops



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## Business Retention—Expansion (BRE)

Supporting the existing businesses in Clearwater County is CCED's highest priority.

The BRE program involves sharing resource information with businesses that will help address a need or issue; bringing in workshops and informational seminars about identified issues to the local community; acting as a liaison for businesses; and, promoting business partnerships to keep local dollars local.

*Throughout the year CCED worked with thirty-four (34 unique businesses throughout the County.*

*Idaho's I-GEM is an innovators grant program with the focus of matching university researchers and experts with businesses to commercialize and market new & existing products/services.*

*Idaho's SBDC-Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) provides business assistance on securing government contracts and workshops on government contracting opportunities.*

*Idaho's Workforce Development Council has funding to provide on or off site training so businesses get the skilled workforce it needs to be competitive.*



## Fostering Entrepreneurship

Homegrown businesses create unique and place based enterprises that add to the local quality of life, employ locally and often have deeper roots than those attracted from outside.

We partner with the Small Business Development Center, LCSC Outreach program & Clearwater Resource Conservation & Development Inc. to deliver workshops, offer one-on-one consulting for start ups and build technological capacity to bolster innovation in Clearwater County.

- ◆ *Over the past quarter CCED worked one on one with twenty-four (24) individuals; 7 of there are in business*
- ◆ *IGNITING INNOVATION is taking on a life of its own with sub-groups:*
  - ⇒ *FOODIES—Meet 4th Tuesday 4-6 pm at CCED*
  - ⇒ *WRITERS—Meet 4th Thursday 3—4:30 pm at VFW (upstairs)*
  - ⇒ *INVENTORS—Are an independent sort and not so much groupies*



*'Smeagle the Beagle' is the creation of Pam Britt Kleinsmith,*

## Business Attraction/Lead Responses & Redevelopment

Responding to leads on businesses interested in our area, preparing site and business information packets; hosting site tours and developing marketing materials to promote our assets requires good relationships with local realtors, landowners and an awareness of community infrastructure capacity.

### *Available Properties*

Keeping current on sites available for new development or new retail development is very important to help our team respond in a timely manner to opportunities.

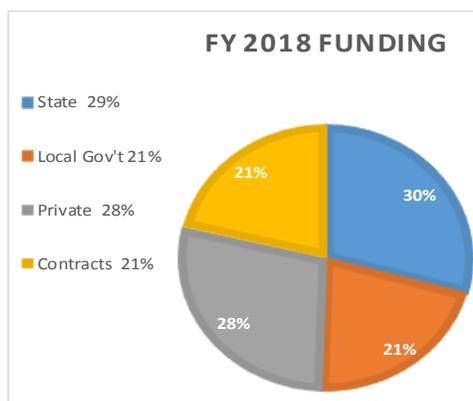
- Sold October 2017 lot out at Konkolville—existing business expansion
- Redevelopment approval granted by EPA—4 acres on US 12; Sold Dec 2017—existing business expansion
- USFS new facility—4 sites proposed Retained USFS North Fork District Office
- Leased May 2018 former Weippe Middle School—Washington business located

### Opportunity Zone Designation

Created within the 2018 Tax Cuts & Jobs Act, December 2017—to provide economic development in economically distressed communities. <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/opportunity-zones-frequently-asked-questions>

We are keeping an eye and ear out for IRS and/or Treasury information so we can leverage this new economic development tool... stay tuned!

## Programmatic Funding



Funding for the CCED program comes from a competitive grant from ID Dept. of Commerce Rural ED Pro program; local government; local private sponsors; and contracts.

Examples of Contracts we are working on this year:

- ID Small Business Development Center—we provide consulting for their clients enhancing the SBDC reach into rural communities; and the
- Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District—we are providing project development and grant writing services to help facilitate natural resource management project funding

We believe approaching the program with an entrepreneurial spirit helps us relate to private enterprise, grow our capacity and sustain our communities.



**P1FCU**

**City Elk River,  
City of Weippe**

**& Valley Rentals**

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*Fostering a thriving business climate by facilitating proactive partnerships and leveraging available resources for the benefit of existing, start-up and new businesses in Clearwater County.*

### Interesting Statistics

Data Source: ID Dept. of Labor—Kathryn Tacke

**Population:** Clearwater County's population (8,497) is one of the oldest in Idaho, we asked about migration patterns. An aging workforce is a rising issue but the immigration of folks 25-44 is a promising trend.

**How old are folks Moving in & out of Clearwater County 2011 - 2015 (US Census)**

Age groups	Moved	
	Into	Out of
<17	9	24
18-24	63	121
25-44	328	131
45-59	105	53
60-69	34	22
70 +	8	45

**Labor Force:** Unemployment continues to be above regional-state and national levels (6.6% in May 2018). What is perplexing is the

Labor Force	May 17	May 18
Civilian Labor Force	3,017	2,951
Total Employment	2,793	2,757
Unemployed	224	194
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.4	6.6
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.2	2.9
U.S. % Unemployed	4.3	3.8

fairly constant decline in available workforce; from May '17 to '18 the county's workforce decreased by 66 persons. The loss of Tri Pro jobs has had a lingering affect as there are 36 fewer jobs in the county. At the time of publication, there were 60 jobs listed as open on [www.labor.idaho.gov](http://www.labor.idaho.gov) in Clearwater County.